

**WILLIAMSBURG CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
JULY 7, 2003**

The Williamsburg City Council held a work session on July 7, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Stryker Building.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Ms. Zeidler, Messrs. Haulman, Houghland, Scruggs and Tabb. Also present were City Manager Tuttle, City Attorney Phillips, and City Clerk Crist.

Staff Attending: Department Heads Nester, Yost, Weiler, and Assistant City Manager Jodi Miller.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zeidler called the meeting to order.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler opened the session for public comment.

No one wished to speak. The session was closed.

BACKGROUND PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

City and Neighborhood Partnership—Inventory of City Programs and Outreach Activities

Reference for this item was Mr. Tuttle's report dated July 3. Mr. Tuttle said that there was a need to catalog what the city does in partnership with its neighborhoods. He explained the reasons for identifying programs and activities in neighborhoods. Also, City Council has repeatedly put emphasis on the city/neighborhoods relationship.

Ms. Miller provided an overview of 42 programs and activities in eight categories: Safety and Security; Preparing for Emergencies, Controlling Nuisances, Preserving Property and Buildings, Protecting the Environment and Maintaining Public Facilities, Caring for Neighborhoods in Need, Providing Parks and Recreation, and Communicating with Residents. The inventory is designed to assist staff in its relationships with neighborhoods and to help citizens access assistance from city government as a way to help their neighborhoods.

Ms. Miller explained that the next phase of this process was to receive comments and suggestions about the draft from City Council, the Neighborhood Council, and citizens. With the next round of review, gaps in services could be identified. The final version of the inventory will be put in booklet format to be used as a reference, available sometime in the Fall.

Council members discussed the report with Mr. Tuttle and Ms. Miller. Items discussed were:

1. Reverse 911.
2. The suggestion that a preamble be inserted in the document.
3. Attendance at Neighborhood Council meeting to explain the purpose of the inventory and receive their comments.
4. Preparation of final report.

5. Annual update of the inventory for Council's retreat.
6. The information is valuable to citizens.
7. The suggestion that the inventory be made available to neighborhood associations.

Council members appreciated the work of Ms. Miller. Ms. Miller recognized the staff members who worked on the inventory. Mayor Zeidler commented that Council has a deep interest in the quality of city neighborhoods. This is a good first step.

Hampton Roads Regional Transportation Plan for 2026

Reference for this item was Mr. Nester's copy of his Power Point presentation regarding the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan. Mr. Tuttle said that the Mayor and he serve on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and every three years the long-range transportation plan is updated. Funding resources must be shown for the projects. The problems are that there are more needs than money to fund them. Mr. Nester is on the Technical Advisory Committee to the MPO, and will present an overview of the plan.

Mr. Nester said this project has been worked on since 2001. He explained the criteria for selecting the projects included in the plan, as well as the Virginia Department of Transportation's funding for Hampton Roads for 2004-2026. Mr. Nester noted that included under the category "Regional Projects," were Richmond Road, Treyburn Drive, Route 199/Jamestown Road, Ironbound Road improvements, and the Route 199 widening project.

Mr. Nester reviewed the Regional Transit and Highway Projects, Expenditures, Funding, and proposed new User Fees (tolls and additional gas tax). The MPO has agreed to study the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel congestion situation in next year's Unified Planning Work Program (which will include an analysis of the tolling recommendations in the long range plan update). Work will continue on the Plan with the final version being submitted to the Federal Highway Administration in December.

Council members, Mr. Tuttle and Mr. Nester discussed the Plan. Mayor Zeidler said this is a very difficult process to understand. The constraints imposed by the Federal Government and VDOT are very confusing. Mr. Tuttle explained Plan A was to be funded with existing funds and Plan B funded with additional funding from the region. While the MPO creates the Plan, the decision comes from VDOT and the Federal Government.

Council members voiced their concerns about existing gridlock and the long term effects on the quality of life, funding concerns/General Assembly cutting more taxes, long term effects on our economy, particularly on area ports and the distribution of materials, and air quality/ pollution. Another difficulty is educating the voter on this issue, consumer trust, and the media. Mr. Tuttle noted that the latest version of the plan does include a mass transit component.

Council members thanked Mr. Nester for his report.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Program Update, Police Officer Dennis Baines

Chief Yost reported that in August 2002, the City entered into an agreement with James City County and the JCC-W Schools to provide Resource Officers for our schools. Middle school resource officers are part time; high school and alternative education are resource officers are full time. The city provides one part time officer, Dennis Baines, at James Blair Middle School.

Officer Baines reported on his first year at the School. He did go through a training program before starting to provide a uniform presence at James Blair School. The program has been well received at the school and provides a means to build rapport with the 585 children at the school, parents, and staff. Having an officer at the school often diffuses certain situations and it is important for the children to see the officer in a helpful role. Officer Baines said he plans to focus on “bullying” during the upcoming school year.

Council members thanked Officer Baines for his work. He is the right person for this position. This program has proven to be very beneficial and Officer Baines’ report answers what officers are doing in the schools.

High Street Update

Reference for this item was Mr. Tuttle’s report dated July 3, 2003, and a copy of the Impact Analysis prepared by Chmura Economics and Analytics, Richmond, Virginia, entitled “An Impact Analysis of the High Street Williamsburg Project of the City of Williamsburg, Virginia.”

Mr. Tuttle gave a periodic update on the High Street project. The Treyburn Drive Agreement with Jack Massie was recently approved. Council approval of the general location of Treyburn Drive will be added to the July 10 agenda. The next step would be to get the precise design of the street. The city has a contract to purchase the existing right-of-way of Treyburn Drive. It has been working with property owners in the area to try to accommodate the concerns and interests of James City County property owners as well as the future owners. Design approval by VDOT is expected in the Fall. Mr. Tuttle reported that the Richmond Road acquisitions are progressing. The agreements for the purchase the Pittman Property and the Legge Property will be on the July 10 Council agenda.

Mr. Tuttle said that the leasing efforts for High Street have slowed because of the economy and retailers are moving at a slower pace. The preliminary environmental studies and economic analysis have been received from Lerner, but the preliminary engineering studies and Special Use Permit package have not. Lerner is aggressively working on all fronts and remains high on the project. Mr. Ted Lerner met with the Mayor and Mr. Tuttle to discuss the project and confirm support. Mr. Tuttle addressed the impact analysis report and the \$3.96 benefit/cost ratio.

Mr. Tuttle noted that Jim Tucker was present.

Council members were optimistic, although the project is progressing slower than originally hoped. Mr. Tuttle commented that Treyburn Drive should be identified in James City County’s Comprehensive Plan. Mayor Zeidler commented that it was good to hear that Lerner still has confidence in the project. The city wanted a quality project.

PREVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING – July 10, 2003

Council members received a copy of the July 10 agenda.

Mr. Nester reported that he expects to receive the proffers for the Parkway Drive Rezoning prior to the public hearing.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS—July 2003

Council members received a copy of the July meeting calendar.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler opened the session for public comment.

No one wished to speak. The session was closed.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Houghland Moved that City Council go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussing two personnel matters per subparagraph 1 concerning appoints to Boards and Commissions and personnel evaluation. The Motion Was Seconded by Mr. Tabb.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Haulman, Scruggs, Zeidler, Tabb, Houghland

No: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m. (Mayor Zeidler called a five-minute recess.)

At 3:40 p.m., Council met in Open Session.

Mr. Houghland Moved the Certification of Closed Meeting. The Motion was Seconded by Mr. Tabb.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Haulman, Zeidler, Scruggs, Tabb, Houghland

No: None

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

Date: July 7, 2003

Motion: Mr. Houghland Second: Mr. Tabb

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Williamsburg has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the City Council that such meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Williamsburg hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered by the City of Williamsburg.

VOTE:

Aye: Haulman, Scruggs, Zeidler, Tabb, Houghland

No: None

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Absent During Vote: None
Absent During Meeting: None

The meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Approved: August 14, 2003

Shelia Y. Crist, Clerk of Council

Jeanne Zeidler, Mayor